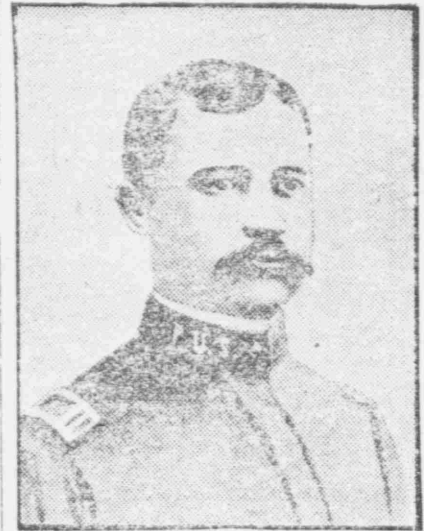


THE NEW ARMY RIFLE.

Lighter Than the German or Mauser Muskets, But Has Far Greater Penetration.

Gen. William Crozier, chief of the bureau of ordnance, in his annual report to the secretary of war says the improved musket has been completed and tried with very satisfactory results, the various changes not only improving the weapon, but cheapening and accelerating the production.

The rod bayonet is a feature of the new rifle. Its advantage is said to lie in the fact that it lightens the weight of the gun and dispenses with the bayonet and bayonet scabbard now in use, and in the place of which



GEN. WILLIAM CROZIER.
(Chief of the Bureau of Ordnance, United States Army.)

intrenching tools may be carried by the soldier.

The new piece weighs but a little less than 9½ pounds, considerably lighter than the German and the Mauser, yet has greater velocity and greater penetration. It is noted that opinions differ as to the value of the rod bayonet. The construction of 5,000 of the new muskets has been authorized.

Gen. Crozier embraces in his report the conclusions of the board of ordnance and fortification on the recent tests of the several systems for a new field gun to show why the ordnance department model is superior. He says the bureau is proceeding with the manufacture of field material from designs which it has prepared concurrently with the development of knowledge by tests. Generally speaking the new gun will have a caliber of three inches and will fire a projectile weighing 15 pounds with an initial velocity of 1,700 feet per second. The breech mechanism will be of the ordnance department type with certain modifications for securing safety. The piece will have a recoil of from 45 to 48 inches. Defects developed at the tests on the proving grounds are to be remedied. A new feature will be the bullet-proof shields with which the pieces are to be provided. Capt. Charles B. Wheeler is given credit for the design of the gun carriage.

BOGUS BEGGAR UNDONE.

Man with Bandaged Arm Makes Error in Court and It Costs Him Ten Dollars.

It was a pitiful look for sympathy which Fred Teppan gave Justice Sabath when he appeared in the Maxwell street police court at Chicago. The prisoner's left arm was wrapped in bandages and it hung in a sling. He had been arrested by Detectives Thieme and Keefe on suspicion of imposing on the generosity of Chicago citizens.

"I have reasons to believe that the man's arm is not fractured in two places as he claims," said Detective Thieme.

"And I say it is," declared Teppan. Justice Sabath questioned the man closely, and while Teppan was busy talking to his honor Attorney Epstein managed to untie Teppan's bandages without the prisoner's knowledge. Soon the bandages were removed and the sling untied. The arm felt apparently helpless to Teppan's side. It seemed red and discolored, and apparently it had been injured.

Teppan would have been discharged, but he became excited while pleading his case, and, forgetting the two fractures in his arm, he began to pound the desk with the "helpless" hand. Then he discovered his mistake and declared he had nothing further to say.

The prisoner had tied the arm so securely that the blood had stopped. He had also used chemicals to aid him in the deception. A fine of ten dollars and costs was imposed.

Positively Brutal.

Wife—I wonder if I could get a silk waist to suit my complexion?

Husband—Sure. Cutt & Slash are advertising hand-painted silks.—Chicago Daily News.

Almost Too Generous.

Patience—Is your minister liberal in his views?

Patience—Oh, yes; he often preaches for two whole hours.—Yonkers Statesman.

JILTED A REAL KING

Montenegrin Princess Drew Line on Alexander of Serbia.

Peremptorily Refused to Marry the Splay-Footed, Knock-Kneed Monarch of Europe's Most Turbulent Kingdom.

The only living princess who has jilted a king has become engaged to another man.

She is Princess Xenia of Montenegro. Her engagement to the divorced grand duke of Hesse recalls the most sensational and piquant episode of modern royal society.

True, it was only King Alexander of Serbia whom she jilted, but he is a real king and there are not many of them.

So overpowering was the sensation of disgust which this mishap, obnoxious little monarch aroused in the beautiful princess that she literally ran away from him, says the Chicago American.

It is well known that royal marriages are arranged by families and statesmen and that the personal inclinations of the two principals have little to do with the matter. The wishes of the girl in the case are least of all consulted. Princesses are brought up to believe that it is their duty to submit absolutely to the commands of their parents and elders in the matter of marriage. But even in the heart of a princess there may lurk a spark of rebellion, and in this case it burst forth.

Three years ago Alexander of Serbia was scouring the imperial, royal and princely courts of Europe seeking for a bride. He needed one sorely, for his throne is very insecure, and without an heir he cannot expect to hold it permanently. After making personal application at the court of Russia and at several others, King Alexander ascertained in the most unmistakable manner that he was not desired as a partner by any of the great reigning families of Europe.

He then made overtures for the hand of the beautiful Princess Xenia, the seventh child and fifth daughter of Prince Nicholas of Montenegro. This



PRINCESS XENIA OF MONTENEGRO.
(Charming Young Woman Who Rejected King Alexander's Suit.)

country is the smallest among the truly independent states of Europe. Serbia is certainly several places higher in the monarchical hierarchy. The prince of Montenegro was therefore desirous of having the king of Serbia for a son-in-law, and thereby greatly increasing his prestige in the Balkan peninsula. The alliance was agreed upon.

The poor princess, only 18 years old, innocent, inexperienced, was sent forth, accompanied by a suitable escort, to meet her future husband at his capital, Belgrade.

The meeting of the affianced pair was arranged. The princess stood in her reception room, erect, radiant, a model of Montenegrin beauty, to await the king.

The king shambled forward, grinning, shambling, knock-kneed, hardly able to see.

"Mon dieu, mais vous etes impossible!" cried the princess, speaking in French, as she is accustomed to do.

The cry came from her heart and was the first impulse of an innocent, unspoiled nature. The princess turned away from the king and put her arm around her lady-in-waiting. King Alexander mumbled a few lame words of welcome and tried to cover up the rebuff by suggesting that the princess was suffering from the fatigue of the journey—Princess Xenia glanced at him with a pitying smile and fled.

The action of the princess put an end to the match. Even in royal families it is scarcely possible to go on with preparations for a wedding after the bride has expressed the deepest loathing and disgust for the bridegroom. After the first meeting the princess did not hesitate to repeat her expressions of disgust and to assert that she would rather die than marry King Alexander. There was nothing to do but to take her back to her father's capital, Cetinje.

When Princess Xenia said that King Alexander was impossible, she did not exaggerate. His personal appearance is singularly degraded and repulsive. He has prominent, black eyebrows, scarcely any forehead and a mat of black hair. His forehead appears to have been smashed down over his head with a hammer. His small eyes are extremely weak and recede into his forehead. His nose is small and hooked. He is round-shouldered, knock-kneed and splay-footed.

The Smallest Screws Made.

The smallest screws used in a watch are so diminutive that it would take 150,000 of them to weigh a pound.

A UNIQUE CEREMONY.

First European Cremation in Siam Described by an Intelligent Eye Witness.

Dr. Peter Gowan, physician to the king of Siam, who died recently, was cremated according to the rites of the Buddhist religion. Dr. Gowan, who spent the greater part of his life in Siam, and was for many years physician to the king of Siam, gave up his practice and joined the Buddhist priesthood, devoting his time to teaching the priests the art of healing. The doctor had long suffered from asthma, and did not long survive after joining the monastery. Before his death he expressed the wish that his body



DR. GOWAN'S FUNERAL PYRE.
(Prepared for the First European Cremation in Siam, Asia.)

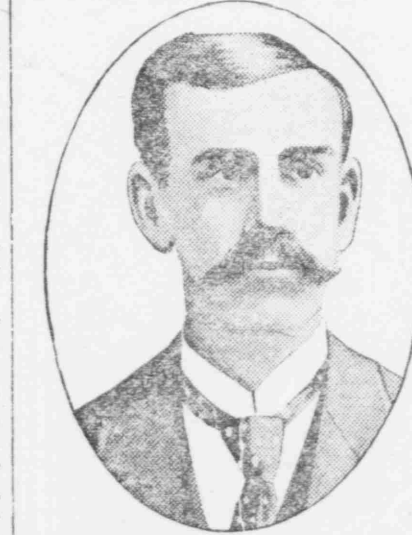
should be cremated. The ceremony attending the cremation was most imposing. The king, as a mark of signal respect for the memory of his late physician, sent a gilded state car, drawn by two black horses, on which the coffin was placed. On arriving at the temple the body was placed on the top of a pyre surrounded by elaborate floral tributes from the ladies of the royal palace, while beneath were wreaths placed both by European and Siamese friends. After viewing the coffin the company, which included a large number of Europeans, adjourned while the rites of the Buddhist faith were gone through. The chief of the temple then delivered a sermon (in the Siamese language) eulogizing the meritorious services rendered by the deceased. At the conclusion of the Buddhist service, one of the king's brothers, specially deputed on behalf of his majesty, then proceeded to light the pyre, after which most of the company present, European and Siamese, placed sandal sticks and flowers on the pyre. A grand display of fireworks ended the mournful proceedings.

APOSTLE REED SMOOT.

Mormon Leader Who May Be Elected to Represent Utah in United States Senate.

Reed Smoot, apostle of the Mormon church, who is practically assured of election to the United States senate from Utah as a result of the spirited campaign he waged, is but little over 40 years, wealthy and popular.

His father was one of the pioneers who crossed the plains with Brigham Young, and was an early settler of Provo, Mr. Smoot's present home. His wife is a daughter of H. S. Eldridge, a leading banker of Salt Lake City. She brought him a fortune, which he has increased by careful handling, until he himself is reputed to be a millionaire. He is a banker and manufac-



APOSTLE REED SMOOT.
(Mormon Leader Who May Be Elected United States Senator.)

turer and is interested in a large number of other enterprises.

Throughout Utah officials of the Mormon church electioneered for him, while he had the assistance also of Senator Thomas Kearns, whom, it is said, he is to help in return two years hence. His candidacy split the republican party in the state, for many were opposed to the idea of electing a Mormon apostle. These supported openly the democratic legislative candidates, who would vote for the return of Senator J. L. Rawlins, if elected. On the other hand, many of the Mormon democrats who are susceptible to ecclesiastical influence in politics were brought over to Smoot.

Clothing Made of Bark.

Shirts and hats that are never in need of ironing are worn by the Indians of the interior of Bolivia. They are made of the bark of a tree, which is soaked in water until the fiber is softened, and then beaten with stones to make it pliable.

Coffee Causes Blindness.

Blindness is very common among the Moors. At 45 their eyesight begins to fail. This affliction is due, it is said, to the excessive use of coffee.

THE CODE OF HONOR.

A New Point to Be Decided by the French Courts.

Latest Parisian Romance Involves Question of Lover's Resentment and Rights Under the "Unwritten Law."

Here is the latest Parisian romance. The characters are:

Lucien David, a well-to-do Parisian. Mme. David, his wife, who is 35 and the mother of three children, one of them 17.

Jean Syndon, a painter of promise, whose pictures have been praised by Bonnat, Jules Lefebvre and M. Sedelmeyer, the art dealer, and who had been giving drawing lessons to the Davids' 14-year-old daughter. He is 30.

The story opens with M. and Mme. David walking near Etretat, where they were spending the summer. Up to them comes Syndon and kills M. David with a revolver.

Then the question of his motive came up. Everybody concerned in the case seems to have talked. Syndon's janitress talked.

"He is such a nice young man," she said. "He would be all right if it were not for that veiled woman who called to see him every day. She stopped coming here six weeks ago. After that a letter in a feminine handwriting arrived for him every day."

It was just six weeks before that that the Davids went to the country. Syndon's chum talked.

"Last Thursday (three days before the murder) Syndon rushed into the studio out of breath and, exhibiting the keenest emotion," he said:

"Do you know what he has just done?" he asked. "He has broken his cane upon my back."

"But who?" I asked.

"M. David, the husband of the woman I love."

"And what did you do? You struck back, I hope?"

"But, no. I could hardly strike

the husband of the woman I regard as my wife."

"But," said I, "you cannot submit to this affront. You will send your seconds to M. David and I hope that you love me enough to count upon me."

"No," he replied, "I cannot challenge M. David to a duel, but I will telegraph at once to Mme. David to come and clope with me."

"That evening I saw Syndon again. He was completely downcast.

"I have just received an answer to my dispatch," he said. "She refuses to come and asks for explanations."

"I tried to demonstrate to him that Mme. David in refusing to clope did nothing but what was natural.

"I could understand," I said, "that the wife might leave her husband, but how could you conceive of a mother who would leave her children?"

This reasoning failed, as the sequel showed, to convince Syndon. He went to Etretat and killed M. David. He also talked. He told of his relations with Mme. David. Being informed that the family attributed the murder to a quarrel arising over his conduct to the Davids' daughter he said:

"Then that version must be accepted as the true one. It is not for me to be the first to speak. I shall observe all the reserve of a gallant man."

He has nevertheless hired a lawyer famed for eloquence, and the lawyer expects to get him off.

"When he killed M. David," said the lawyer, "the latter had spit in his face and was raising his cane. Note that all the numerous love letters received by Syndon were burned before he started for Etretat from Paris. He cannot, therefore, be reproached with having prepared his defense beforehand; but we do not lack proofs on the state of things that existed."

Mme. David had not said much, except to moan, while throwing herself on her husband's grave, that she would like to kill herself.

The trial is expected to be of especial interest, as it will bring up a new point regarding the "unwritten law," namely, if the husband canes and spits in the face of the lover is the lover justified in killing him?

Killed by a Housefly.

A common house fly bit the thumb of George Lendhurst, aged 56, of Brooklyn, N. Y., and caused his death. His hand and arm swelled, and in a short time his body was twice its natural size, from blood poisoning.

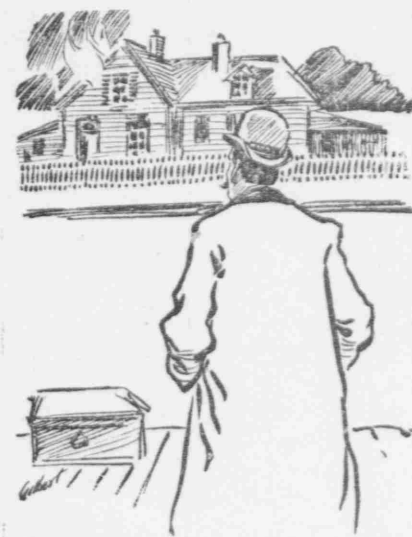
Horses in Cowhide Shoes.

In the rural districts of Australia many of the horses wear cowhide shoes.

MYSTERY IN FIRES.

Fourteen Conflagrations in Forty-Eight Hours Terrify a Family Down in Tennessee.

Residents of Weakley county, Tenn., are stirred up over a series of mysterious fires that have been breaking out in the house of Josiah Page, about two miles from the town of Gleason. The first blaze sprang from apparently no cause whatever last Thursday, and was promptly extinguished by Page and his family. Not more than an hour later the house was again discovered on fire, in a different place, and the blaze was again extinguished. By this time the family was excited, and they began to hunt for the cause of the



SAW THE FIRE START.

mystery. Then even while they were looking at the house another blaze was seen creeping out near the roof.

Persons from Gleason heard of the occurrence, and to satisfy curiosity A. S. Brummitt, president of the bank of Gleason, in company with Dr. Bandy, Dr. Bledsoe and other responsible citizens, went out to be convinced that there was nothing at all in it.

The party had not been there more than 15 minutes when, to their surprise, a blaze was seen shooting out from the roof of the house, and to make the proposition more unreasonable, after that was put out other fires started in less than 30 minutes.

The members of the family are honest people of average intelligence and are terror stricken, having removed everything from the building and taken their household goods to other quarters. Fire had broken out 14 times in 48 hours, and hundreds of people are flocking out to witness the sight. The writer of this drove out to the place, and, though incredulous, stood and saw the fire start from the west gable of the house, though no one was within 50 feet of the building. The whole community is wrought up over the matter.

NEW STREET COSTUME.

It Consisted of a Suit of Pink Pajamas and Made a Milwaukee Copper Blush.

The Milwaukee correspondent of the Cincinnati Enquirer relates this story of a pretty woman, a suit of pink pajamas and a big policeman. "What is the charge?" asked the judge.

"Disorderly conduct—wearing a suit of pajamas in the street," replied the officer in the witness box.

The pretty woman in the prisoner's dock smiled sweetly, the court looked



"WHERE ARE YOU GOING?"

surprised, and the big policeman blushed, and the pink pajamas said nary a word but lay there in plain sight of prisoner and judge and policeman.

Vivian Partell lives in Marinette. She has a fad. It is the wearing of pajamas—not only during the hours of slumber, but as a lounging costume for women. She came to Milwaukee to introduce the costume, and thereby hangs the tale. Policeman Brost was walking down the street last evening when the natty figure of the woman caught his eye.

"Where are you going?" inquired the officer. She said: "I am introducing pajamas as a neat and attractive apparel for general house wear." She paid a fine.

Very Helpful Admonition.

Information for travelers was imparted by a thoughtful genius in Ireland, who engraved the following warning on a stone near the banks of a rivulet in the town of Strabane:

"Take notice, that when this stone is out of sight it is not safe to ford the river." This is somewhat similar to the famous fingerpost which was erected in Kent, England: "This is a bridge path to Faversham. If you can't read this, you had better keep to the main road."

Dr. Crum of Charleston, S. C. is in the city.

Mr. Scott, brother of Attorney Scott, is in the city.

Royal Hughes will soon become a venedict.

Miss Mattie Morgan is in New York the guest of her sister.

Mr. M. Clinkscales is one of the finest instrumental performers in the city.

Miss N. R. Lee, of Flushing, New York, will be the guest of her sister during the Christmas and New Year holidays.

Those going to receive on New Year's day will please send in their names to THE BAE on or before December 20.

There is to be a young ladies' musical club organized to-day by a popular musical teacher.

Mr. H. L. Robinson is building a fine house on 11th street between T and U in which he will take his bride very shortly.

Mr. Thomas A. Scott, brother of attorney A. W. Scott is in the city the guest of his brother.

Colored Freemasons gave the Rev. Dr. J. E. Brown, of Fredericksburg, Va., the district deputy grand master of the Fourth Virginia Masonic district, a Thanksgiving banquet Thursday night at Foster's cafe, on Twentieth st. Dr. Brown was visiting friends in this city Thursday. He visited the several colored lodges of Alexandria, which had met to receive him. A large delegation of Alexandria colored M. sons attended the banquet. R. D. Ruffin served as toastmaster. The toasts were responded by George W. Stewart, the Rev. Weston Greene, Magnus L. Robinson, and R. H. Robinson. Dr. Brown returned to Fredericksburg this high

HAS BUSINESS HEAD.

Princess Waldemar of Denmark, Who Prevented Sale of Islands to the United States.

Princess Waldemar of Denmark, who is credited with having secured the defeat in the landshing of the treaty ceding the Danish West Indies to the United States, is possessed of great business ability. It is said that she acted in the interests of a syndicate of bankers and merchants with whom she is believed to be associated. This syndicate



THE PRINCESS WALDEMAR.
(Famed Throughout Denmark for Her Great Business Ability.)

plans to exploit the islands by establishing a bank, encouraging agriculture and starting steamship lines.

This is not the first venture of this kind in which the princess has been interested. A year ago she engaged in real estate speculation, secured a plot near Copenhagen, which she cut up into building lots, with the sanction of the city, and erected villas, which she rented to wealthy people. She is interested in the development of the Danish commerce in Asia and has secured valuable concessions from the Russian government.

Was Balloons Are Costly.

War balloons are frequently made of the bladders of oxen, which are preferable to silk. The rents in a skin balloon close almost automatically, and therefore the leakage is slight. It requires the bladders of about 75,000 oxen to make a medium-sized balloon, and the cost is about \$5,000.

He Wouldn't Tell.

"Oh, Willie!" exclaimed Willie's sister, "when did you buy your Panama hat?"

"To-day," replied Willie, proudly. "How much did it cost?"

"Sister, it is very bad form to inquire the cost of a Panama hat."—Pittsburg Chronicle-Telegraph.